11/27/70

Dear Howard,

Terrible as my typing is and hastily as I write, how about sending me a few of your address stickers to assure that I address the envelopes correctly?

Ypur letters to Rizzo and Paul are good. As you'll note, we addressed the same weaknesses in different ways. I wish I thought this would impress Paul, but I am gradually getting the idea he is sick. If I am right, nothing will.

Don't forget the Archives-Harper letters you were going to send me. I will want a file of such things to use in court. I've asked Paul for his.

Had I known for sure that I'd be in Wilmington over the weekend, I'd have let you know in advance. It was not until the night before we left that we knew we could. Had it been possible for me to go to Phila., I would, but not having seen my mother and stepp father for so long and with the other things I had to do, like trying to get money owed me for four years, I didn't have the two hours a round trip would have required. I had hoped that, if I could have reached you Saturday night, you might have been able to promote a ride to Wilmington.

Perhaps it will be so that you can get here during the holidays? We can talk then, and you can go over the things I've done since you were last here, especially the efforts to get things and the legal matters, which have taken most of what time I've had.

When you talk about your confusion about your own future and distress over the sad state of society and the world, you show good sense and proper concern. Let me tell you a little story I think is relevant:

When we lived on the farm and had the serious troubles with aviation intrusions, I became alarmed at Lil's strong reactions, very, very strong, pathetic in a way, and deeply troubling to me because I feared worse consequences. So, I took it upon myself to seek psychiatric counsel. I told this shrink the story and he told me not to worry. He asked a simple question-how can one live this way and not react? Reaction, he said, is a good, a healthy and normal sign. He'd be worried were there no reaction. A healthy person has to react to stimuli, and when there is the certainty of damage, there is proper concern. He did not even want to see Lil. His advice took two forms-prescribing a tranquilizer and urging me to move her from that environment, so there would not be the omnipresent reminders. So, do not be distrubed that you are confused and distressed. How the hell can one live in this world and not be - unless there is something wrong inside?

There is sometimes, however, a feeling of futility, of powerlessness, of inability to correct what requires rectification. And no one man can do all that has to be done. The diffucult thing is to recognize that each man does what he can. For example, your excellent letter to Russo. I do not think you really expected anything to come of it, either in changing him or his Cossacks. Yet you did what one can.

I do not know your motive in first interesting yourself in the assassination, but as I see and understand things, there is nothing you can do to help heal a sick society than the work you do on this. Aside from the belief that the progressive evils since then could not have happened without that crime, I believe doing something about that and the subsequent crimes is a meaningful thing, especially in terms of healing the country, or retarding the progress of evil, however you want to formulate it.

One of the reasons I am so happy that you are throwing yourself so wholeheartedly into college and college life (and the joy of it is sufficient reason) is that in this way you will be better prepared at some time in the future to make what contribution you may to correcting evil and injustice. What you prepare to do and be professionally is not at this moment the essence. What is the crux is that you do prepare yourself, equip yourself

to understand life and its forces, to develop your own faculties -enjoying to the fullest the great satisfaction college can be at the same time. When the time comes, you will know what you do and do not want to be and do professionally, and that is less important than your general, overall development andfulfillment. Drink in all you can while you can, for these are yours of a preciousness you will not fully appreciate until later, in retrospect, and roll every wonderful drop over your tongue.

No one os us can change the world. Ech one of us can do his part. You will do more than your share. Indeed, for your years, which means no more than the time you've had in which to do it, you have already done more than most men do in a lifetime. So, do not be depressed from a feeling of personal failure.

Nor should you let the oppression of the growing Ameriform fascism seize or dominate you. It is an enormous force, a monstrous evil. And it can and probably will get worse before we can change it, as certainly we will. Look back on the bumoling history of man and the one thing that is certain, aside from his endless error, is that he has moved forward. If there is no evil comparable to germ and nuclear warfare, that is because of the state of man's development. Comparable evils, commensurate with man's state of development, have always existed. Yet despite these things, mankind has progressed. This may seem a weak argument when you consider man's current morality (morality not equated with the zippered fly), but I suggest your own generation is my irrefutable response. Yours is the best we have ever had, the most concerned, the most activist, the one that, if it does not bring about the required change, will sire those who will...It takes years to live with the certainty that improvements in life do not come about overnight, that powerful forces of evil do not get overthrown easily or rapidly - and that these things will come to pass.

All my life I've been an impatient man. Not until I began working on the assassination- and long after I began - did I come to appreciate that this, inevitably, will be a long, drawn-out fight. Having come to this understanding, it leaves me tranquil. I no longer feel frustrated that I cannot get my work published, that there continues to be suppression. Instead, I do what I can and am content knowing I have and do. As you know, it has not stopped me. Nor has it slowed me. The diminution in my output comes from aging and diversifying.

At your age I was also sometimes depressed and felt frustrated. Life then also was bad. Can you conceive what the one-two blows of the depression and Hitler(musaolini and Franco, too) were to me and my peers? The problems of your generation are not as easily met, Ours were more tangible. The next meal, things like that. But for us they were real and serious and difficult, more readily coped with because they were more tangible. But I think I have anmunderstanding of how you feel and why you feel that way. It is inevitable that you do feel as you do. And, as I began, healthy.

The question is, how do you meet and live with this? How you will, I do not know. That you will, I have no doubt. Basically, it will come with increased understanding and experience-and nothing in college replaces experience, now or later. One of the things that makes it easier is social. You have found and will find more friends, some of whom will be better friends and more worthwhile. Your man-to-man friendships at college will be deeper than earlier, partly because you have grown, partly because those who are and will be your friends have grown from their high-school days.

I think I have detected in your one of my own social shortcomings when I was your age. I was t late developing a boy-girl interest in girls. There were so many other things I found so wonderful and to which I devoted myself, I went through high school with almost no dates at all. This was wrong, as I learned as soon as I changed. There is something in a boy-girl relationship that nothing can replace. There is no adequate substitute. Here I am not talking of sex alone. That is a thing unto itself. Nor am I saying it is not relevant, for it is, relevant, rich, marvelous. But also important is the difference between men and women, differences in thinking and feeling, differences in understanding and what can be so meaningful, a difference in the warmth and compassion that no man can get from another man, no woman from another woman. I recall, though many years have passed, a time of my own depressed feeling when I was a college freshman, and a wonderful Irish girl named Mary and a letter she then wrote me. I can recall some of its exact wording- after 40 years -and such years. It began, in the manner of an Irish poet, "Was it peace you are looking for, Ha

Harold? Don't lookf for it. Peace comes unbidden". And then she drew a simple but beautiful picture of a tiny fragment of time and the purity and beauty of a single, pendant drop of dew on a single leaf overhanging a singing brook. And I felt good, and warmed, comforted, understood, and at that moment at peace. There is a kind of comfort a man gets from laying his head of a woman's lap, of feeling it, immobile, against her breasts, that comes from nothing else in time of stress. If this is a woman for whom the man has regard (and not necessarily sexual regard or interest), she can run her fingers through his hair, and it can give him solace as well as it can stimulate him sexually (depending upon the mood.

By the way, I never laid Mary.

Woman is the thing designed by nature to be most beautiful to a man. As you have, undoubtedly, already learned, morality is not the zippered fly, beauty is not the finely-chiselled nose, the lips of perfection to the artist, the most perfect symetry of body line. Beauty is in the mind. (If you haven't read the Shaespeare sonnet, "My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun", please do.)

I think part of your torment is a kind of lonliness and unfullfilment that may or may not have sexual involvement. I think that you are, by nature, inclined to be shy and even timid. If this is the case, it is likely you will be more so with women. But that is not really a problem, and it soon passes with increased contact. Howeverm, if my estimate is accurate, you may be tending to shun contact with woman that might develop into a rich relationship, perhaps, in some way you cannot express of fully graps, even fear. This social reticence is, I think, more common in bright and sensitive young men than in like women, and less easy for them to overcome because of the expectations of society, that the man be the aggressor in establishing a relationship with a woman.

It would be easier to communicate what I am trying to if we could talk about it, and I could sense whether or not I am being understood. I am not saying keep your eye open for the first woman you can lay. Nor am I saying <u>not</u> to lay the first one you can-or whenever you can. I am saying that you should be looking for friendships with women as you do with men, appreciating that the frienships will be different. Each is its own kind. There is a large overlap, but neither replaces the other, neither is not essential. Whether or not such a friendship or friendships develop sexually is not immediately the significant thing. That also comes with time, and the time varies greatly with individuals. I think that the fullness of such companionship is not, is never reached, without the richness, the marvel of sex, natures great gift to mankind. But that also comes with time that varies with individuals. It is like Mary's peace, coming unbidden.

You have before you a very wide selection of the most desireable women. College has already done some culling for you. Let your eye wander, do not divert it; and let your mind wander and dream, and come to know women. You will find those who will make this period of your life at once more tolerable and more beautiful. These are extremes that impose an enormous burden on a seemingly fragile thing. Believe me, it is a thing of great strength that can and will suppt such a burden and thereby achieves greater strength.

Howard, yours is a not uncommon problem. Your intellectual growth has been very rapid, coming at a time when it dominated your interests and activities and excluded what your at that time were not prepared for in body and emotional development. Don not worry about it. But don't indulge or perpetuate it. Let yourself grow.

And by the way, if you felt you were cold in speaking to me, I didn't.

If I am close to reality in the foregoing and you want to discuss it further, do not fear that it will take too much time for me. It is time I have because I do not have my own son.

Best,